

Love Does, Session 3: AUDACIOUS LOVE

Are we missing that the God of the universe is nuts about us?

Further explore the challenge of Love Does by engaging in any or all of the following activities between sessions. This part of Love Does is not about following rules or doing your homework. The following activities are designed to give you the opportunity to jump into the risk of God's kingdom with both feet.

DO: GOD WAS IN THIS PLACE AND I DID NOT KNOW IT, PART 2

Reread the story of Jacob from Genesis 28:10-17:

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a ladder^[b] set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the Lord stood beside him^[c] and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed^[d] in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" **17** And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Your invitation this week is to seek the presence of God in a place "by the side of the road." This could be either a place you go often and don't think to look for God (the grocery store, a work Zoom call, a stroll around your neighborhood, etc.) or a place you wonder if God might not be at all.

Go to the place you've selected and then walk through or observe the area, praying this prayer: "God, show me where Your kingdom and love are already on display in this place and with these people." As you go or observe, take care to look everyone you pass or see in the eye and be friendly. If the temptation to judge creeps up, pray, "God, help me to think Your thoughts and feel Your feelings for this place and these people."

Reflection Questions:

- Where did you find God during this activity?
- Were you surprised?
- What did you learn about love through the process?

READ: "HEARING AID"

Read Chapter 21, "Hearing Aid," in the *Love Does* book.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever "heard" God speak to or direct you? How did that work?
- Bob says, "Humans are limited [but] God isn't limited at all. He can communicate to us in any way He wants to anytime He wants to" (p. 140). How, then, are we supposed to listen? What makes listening to God hard for you?
- Bob says that because he doesn't hear from God audibly, he just looks for where Jesus has been. Where have you seen that Jesus has been this week?
- Where has Jesus been in your life the past ten years? "Who" or "what" were some of the messages that He communicated to you?